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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Commerce Department Subcommittee of
House Appropriations Hearing

STATINTL

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. At the request of the Department of Commerce and based on an exchange of letters, [REDACTED] were present on 28 April 1958 to respond to any queries from the Commerce Subcommittee hearing on Commerce Department's request for funds for the establishment of a clearing house for the collection, translation and distribution of foreign documents in the fields of technology and applied science. Members of the Subcommittee present were: Prince Preston (Chairman), Albert Thomas, Sidney R. Yates, Daniel J. Flood, and Cliff Clevenger.
3. CIA representatives were not present during most of the hearing and were brought in late. Some questions were asked and the Agency representatives were able to supply the answers without any difficulty.
4. As a matter of interest, Representative Clevenger was against the Commerce request and just generally thought that the Government was spending too much money abroad. In fact he commented that there was no necessity for the Government translating Russian documents since they probably would not be true anyway. Representative Thomas was also strongly against this request indicating that the U. S. did not need this information since we were fifty years ahead of the Russians. Representative Flood took vigorous exception to this comment calling it narrow and

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parochial. Representative Yates was attempting intelligently to understand the difference between the Commerce program, CIA program and the National Science Foundation program. Representative Flood vigorously supported the over-all clearing house concept and in effect assisted the various departments in explaining to his fellow committeemen the nature of the program and the need to bring to the attention of the U. S. public generally the translated materials.

5. Representative Prince Preston is Chairman of this Subcommittee and it could not be ascertained whether he was for or against the request. In any event he appeared to be seeking to develop the facts.

STATINTL



Legislative Counsel